

Message Text

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UNCLAS NEW DELHI 8486

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR IN RO CH
SUBJECT: CEAUSESCU-DESAI MEETING

1. ROMANIAN PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU DURING A THREE-HOUR STOPOVER IN DELHI HAD LUNCH AND OFFICIAL TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER DESAI, FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE AND SENIOR AIDES. UPON HIS DEPARTURE, CEAUSESCU TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THE "VERY USEFUL" TALKS HAD COVERED DISARMAMENT, "PARTICULARLY NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT," PROBLEMS OF UNDERDEVELOPMENT, ASPECTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND BILATERAL MATTERS. CEAUSESCU PRAISED THE "GOOD MEASURE OF COOPERATION IN IMPORTANT FIELDS" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND SAID THE TWO SIDES CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO FURTHER INTENSIFY EFFORTS TOWARD WORLD PEACE AND TO HELP "THE SMALL NATIONS PRESERVE THEIR INDEPENDENCE." ASKED ABOUT HIS VISIT TO CHINA, VIETNAM AND NORTH KOREA, THE ROMANIAN PRESIDENT SAID THAT THESE COUNTRIES WERE CONCERNED WITH THEIR OWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WITH DEVELOPING THEIR SOCIALIST SOCIETIES.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE TALKS, WHICH ALL APPEAR TO BE BASED ON THE SAME OFFICIAL BRIEFING,
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CHINESE LEADERS HAD TOLD CEAUSESCU THAT PROSPECTS WERE GOOD FOR IMPROVED SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS. ALTHOUGH CEAUSESCU REPORTEDLY GAVE THE INDIANS AN ACCOUNT OF HIS DISCUSSIONS IN PEKING, HE APPARENTLY DID NOT BRING ANY MESSAGE FROM PEKING FOR THE GOI. CEAUSESCU IS SAID TO HAVE SPOKEN OF ROMANIA'S INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY AND OF THE RESPECT THAT ROMANIA, AN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRY

AND MEMBER OF THE G-77, HAS FOR THE IDEALS OF NON-ALIGNMENT. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL REPORTS, HE DID NOT RAISE THE QUESTION OF ROMANIAN MEMBERSHIP IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, "CONSIDERABLE TIME" IN THE TALKS WAS DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT WITH CEAUSESCU AND DESAI AGREEING THAT THE GREAT POWERS HAVE TO TAKE THE LEAD ON THE ISSUE. DESAI ALSO REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THERE WOULD BE GREATER CONFIDENCE AMONG THESE POWERS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS DISARMAMENT IF THEY COULD SHED UNNECESSARY FEARS. BLOOD

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